

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

May 19, 2006

Judy Lichtman, Treasurer Emily's List 1120 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20036

Response Due Date: June 19, 2006

Identification Number: C00193433

Reference:

Amended December Monthly Report (11/1/05-11/30/05), received

2/10/06

Dear Ms. Lichtman:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. An adequate response must be received at the Commission by the response date noted above. An itemization of the information needed follows:

-Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions totaling \$5,000.00 from "Association of Trial Lawyers of America," which appears to be a corporation. 2 U.S.C. §441b(a) prohibits the receipt of contributions from corporations unless made from a separate segregated fund established by the corporation.

If any apparently prohibited contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with clarifying information.

If you have received prohibited contributions, you may have to make a refund. If within 30 days of receipt you (1) transferred the prohibited amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund, you may retain the contribution in an account not used to influence federal elections. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for transfers to a non-federal account were not

met within 30 days of receipt, the prohibited amount must be refunded. See 11 CFR §103.3(b)(1).

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. In addition, any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report covering the period during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited contributions, prompt action by your committee to transfer-out or refund the amount will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule A supporting Line 15 of your report discloses payments from "Grassroots Solutions." It appears this receipt was for goods and/or services provided by your committee. Pursuant to Advisory Opinion 1979-18, the sale/purchase price paid to a political committee could involve the receipt of a contribution from a purchaser if the purchase price exceeds the "usual and normal charge". The term "usual and normal charge" for goods is defined as the price of those goods in the market from which they ordinarily would have been purchased at the time of the contribution. Examples of goods and services include equipment, supplies, personnel, advertising services, membership lists, and mailing lists. 11 CFR §100.52(d)(1) and (2)

Please clarify whether your committee assessed the usual and normal charge for the goods and/or services you provided and explain the steps your committee took in determining the amount charged. If your committee provided the goods and/or services at more than the usual and normal charge, the difference between the two is considered to be an in-kind contribution received by your committee from a corporation and is prohibited subject to the limits set forth at 2 U.S.C. §441b(a)

-Schedule A supporting Line 15 of your report discloses a payment(s) from an individual and "AliMar Partners" for apparent goods and/or services provided by your committee. Pursuant to Advisory Opinion 1979-18, the sale/purchase price paid to a political committee could involve the receipt of a contribution from a purchaser if the purchase price exceeds the "usual and normal charge". The term "usual and normal charge" for goods is defined as the price of those goods in the market from which they ordinarily would have been purchased at the time of the contribution. Examples of goods and services include equipment, supplies, personnel, advertising services, membership lists, and mailing lists. 11 CFR §100.52(d)(1)

Please clarify whether your committee assessed the usual and normal charge for the goods and/or services you provided and explain the steps your committee took in determining the amount charged. If your committee provided the goods and/or services at more than the usual and normal charge, the difference between the two is considered to be contribution(s) received by your committee from an individual and may be prohibited subject to the limits set forth at 2 U.S.C. §§441a(f) and 441b or 11 CFR §110.1(d).

-Schedule H4 of your report discloses payments to "Accomodations Contact," "ACE Beverage," "American Express," "Barmy Wine," "Gumby's Pizza," "Marriott Hotel," "Palace Florist," "Panera Bread," "Radisson Hotels," "Radisson Plaza" and "Rocklands Catering," which are categorized as Administrative expenses; however, the purposes of disbursement disclosed are "Catering/Facilities." Please be advised that payments made for your committee's fundraising activities must be allocated according to the funds received method and the ratio reflected on Schedule H2. Please amend your report to clarify the appropriate category for this activity or provide clarifying information regarding this apparent discrepancy.

-Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule(s) H4 of your report to clarify the following description(s): "Fees." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-Schedule H4 of your report discloses reimbursements to individuals for "Insurance Health/Life," "Internet Services," "Rent" and "Telephone." Please be advised that when itemizing reimbursements to individuals for goods or services, payment to the original vendors must be itemized as memo entries regardless of amount. Each memo entry must include the name and address of the original vendor, as well as the date, amount and purpose of the original purchase must be provided. Please amend your report to include the missing information and clearly identify on the Schedule H4, which reimbursement each memo entry relates to. 11 CFR §§104.10 and 104.17, and Advisory Opinions 1992-1 and 1996-20, footnote 3

-Schedule H4 of your report discloses a reimbursement(s) to an individual(s) for apparent travel and subsistence advances in which the total amount reimbursed exceeds \$500. When the reimbursement amount to staff for travel and subsistence advances exceeds \$500, the payments by

committee staff that make up the reimbursement have to be itemized as memo entries regardless of the amount. Each memo entry must include the complete name and address of the original vendor, as well as the date, amount and an adequate purpose. Please amend your report to include the missing information and clearly identify on the Schedule H4, which reimbursement each memo entry relates to. 11 CFR §§104.10 and 104.17, and Advisory Opinion 1996-20, footnote 3

Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered. Failure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action.

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1393.

Sinterely,

ennifer L. Jones

Senior Campaign Finance Analyst

Reports Analysis Division

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